

Application No. 10/803,647  
Filed: March 18, 2004  
TC Art Unit: 1743  
Confirmation No.: 5353

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A device for storing and/or treating chemicals, comprising:

a casing in the form of a sampling tube having two open ends, the sampling tube defining a receiving cavity for storing chemicals therein, the receiving cavity accommodating an absorption material,

wherein the sampling tube is provided with a transponder including a memory, the transponder being arranged in the sampling tube such that it cannot be affected by the chemicals, the transponder being arranged outside the absorption material.

2. (original) A device according to claim 1,

characterized in that the transponder is melted-in in a closed glass housing which constitutes an inseparable part of the device.

3. (original) A device according to claim 1 characterized in that the transponder comprises an antenna.

4. (original) A device according to claim 3,

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characterized in that the antenna is provided on the glass casing by a vapor deposition technique.

5. (original) A device according to claim 4,  
characterized in that the vapor-deposited antenna is designed as a layer of metal ions vapor-deposited in a spiral path.
6. (original) A device according to claim 3,  
characterized in that the antenna is designed as a coil-shaped element accommodated in the glass housing.
7. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1,  
wherein the transponder is embedded in the absorption material.
8. (canceled)
9. (original) A device according to claim 1,  
characterized in that it is an HPLC column (high performance liquid chromatography column), the HPLC column comprising a glass casing which is at least partly filled with separation material and comprises two coupling elements at the ends.

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10. (original) A device according to claim 9,  
characterized in that the transponder in the glass housing is  
embedded in the separation material.
- 11-12. (canceled)
13. (original) A device according to claim 1,  
characterized in that the memory of the transponder is  
programmable.
14. (original) A device according to claim 13,  
characterized in that the memory of the transponder contains  
a non-erasable identification number.
15. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1  
wherein the sampling tube is received in a package which is made  
of glass and filled with inert gas, the package having closed  
ends.
16. (new) The device according to claim 1 wherein the absorption  
material is confined between two sieves.

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17. (new) The device according to claim 1 wherein the transponder is fixed between two sieves.

18. (new) The device according to claim 1 wherein the transponder is fixed between two confined portions of the sampling tube.

19. (new) The device according to claim 16 wherein the sieves are glass wool plugs.

20. (new) The device according to claim 17 wherein the sieves are glass wool plugs.

21. (new) The device according to claim 16 wherein the sieves are metal sieves.

22. (new) The device according to claim 17 wherein the sieves are metal sieves.